

ABSOLUTE

SUPERMAN™



ALL IN

15+
TEEN+

10



SAUNDERS
11

AARON
DI GIANDOMENICO
ARREOLA

WONDER WOMAN

#24

MOUSEMAN KNOWS

MAN KNOWS

MOUSEMAN KNOWS
MOUSEMAN KNOWS

Written by
TOM KING

Art by
DANIEL SAMPERE

THE SECOND EPIC CHAPTER OF
THE ISLAND OF MICE AND MEN

ON SALE AUGUST

MOUSEMAN KNOWS

MOU

MAN KNOWS



ALL IN

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**KRYPTON.
DEEP BENEATH
THE REDLANDS.
YEARS AGO.**

I SEE
THEM! THEY'RE
ALIVE! *KEEP
DIGGING!*



THIS IS
JOR-EL FROM
ENGINEERING! I'VE
BROKEN THROUGH
THE *CAVE-IN*
AND FOUND
SURVIVORS!

I NEED *MEDICAL
TEAMS* DOWN HERE
IMMEDIATELY!



ALL RIGHT, LET'S
GET YOU OUT
OF HERE.

WE
WON'T
MAKE
IT.

DON'T WORRY,
WE'LL GET THE
WOUNDED OUT
FIRST.

NO.



WE WON'T
MAKE IT
BECAUSE OF
THEM.

OH MY
RAO...



XAN-DOR!

GAAHRRROH!



WAS THAT...?
MAGMOLES.

BUT...THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE*. THEY DON'T TUNNEL THIS FAR ABOVE THE PLANET'S MANTLE. AND THEY'VE *NEVER* ATTACKED PEOPLE.

TELL THAT TO THE THREE MINERS THEY DRAGGED AWAY SCREAMING.



STAY CLOSE.

FIRST SIGN OF A MOLE, WE FIGHT TOGETHER, BASH ITS BRAINS IN.

IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE.

SOMETHING MUST'VE DISTURBED THE FOOD CHAIN. PUSHED THEM OUT OF THEIR NATURAL HABITAT.

THEY'RE *SCARED*. SCARED AND HUNGRY.



WE CAN'T JUST...

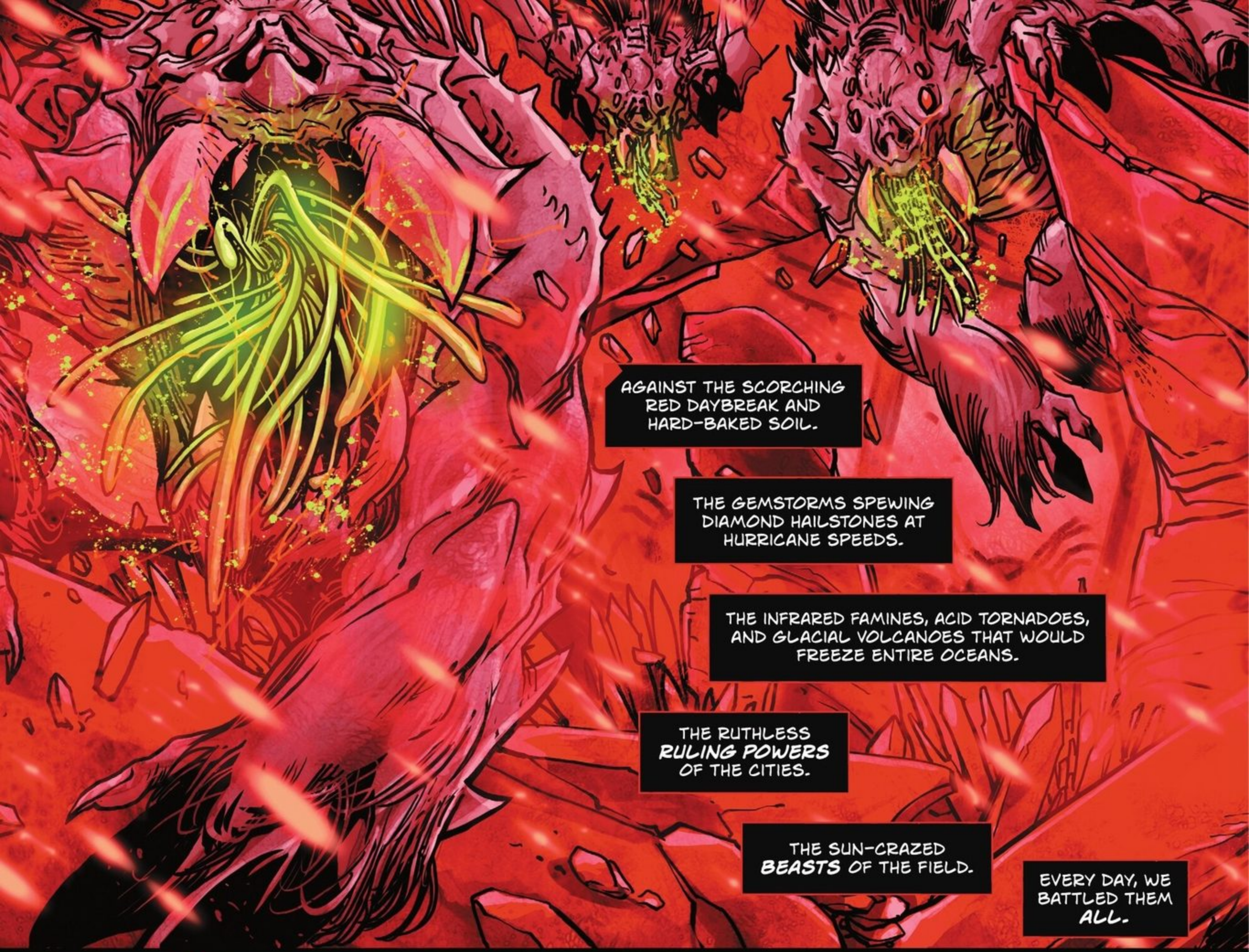
THEY GOT TEETH THAT'LL CHEW THROUGH SUNSTONE! YOU WANNA LIVE TO SEE THE SKY AGAIN, FIGHT LIKE HELL!

IT'S US OR THEM!



HERE THEY COME!

THE PEOPLE OF THE KRYPTONIAN COUNTRYSIDE WERE USED TO FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL.



AGAINST THE SCORCHING
RED DAYBREAK AND
HARD-BAKED SOIL.

THE GEMSTORMS SPEWING
DIAMOND HAILSTONES AT
HURRICANE SPEEDS.

THE INFRARED FAMINES, ACID TORNADOES,
AND GLACIAL VOLCANOES THAT WOULD
FREEZE ENTIRE OCEANS.

THE RUTHLESS
RULING POWERS
OF THE CITIES.

THE SUN-CRAZED
BEASTS OF THE FIELD.

EVERY DAY, WE
BATTLED THEM
ALL.



WE BUILT A PLACE OF PEACE AND
BEAUTY IN THE **REDLANDS** OF
KRYPTON. BUT IT DID NOT COME
WITHOUT TOIL AND HARDSHIP.

WITHOUT GRIT
AND BLISTERS.

WITHOUT
THE RESOLVE IT
TAKES TO FIGHT
FOR WHAT IS
YOURS.

KAL...
I HAVE TO
GET BACK
TO KAL.

DRONE!

NO MATTER THE COST.

LAVA
GUN!

CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM

I COME FROM GENERATIONS
OF KRYPTONIANS WHO MADE
THEIR WAY THROUGH THE
HARSHTEST OF WORLDS...

...WITH LAVA IN THEIR
VEINS, DIRT BENEATH
THEIR FINGERNAILS...

...AND BLOOD
ON THEIR HANDS.



WHO AM I TO QUESTION
MY ANCESTORS?

**GREENLAND.
LAZARUS CORPS
RESEARCH FACILITY.**

THIS IS
GREEN NINE.
ALL CLEAR
UP HERE.

NOTHING ON
THE RADAR. NO HEAT
SIGNATURES. NO SIGN
OF ATMOSPHERIC
DISTURBANCE.



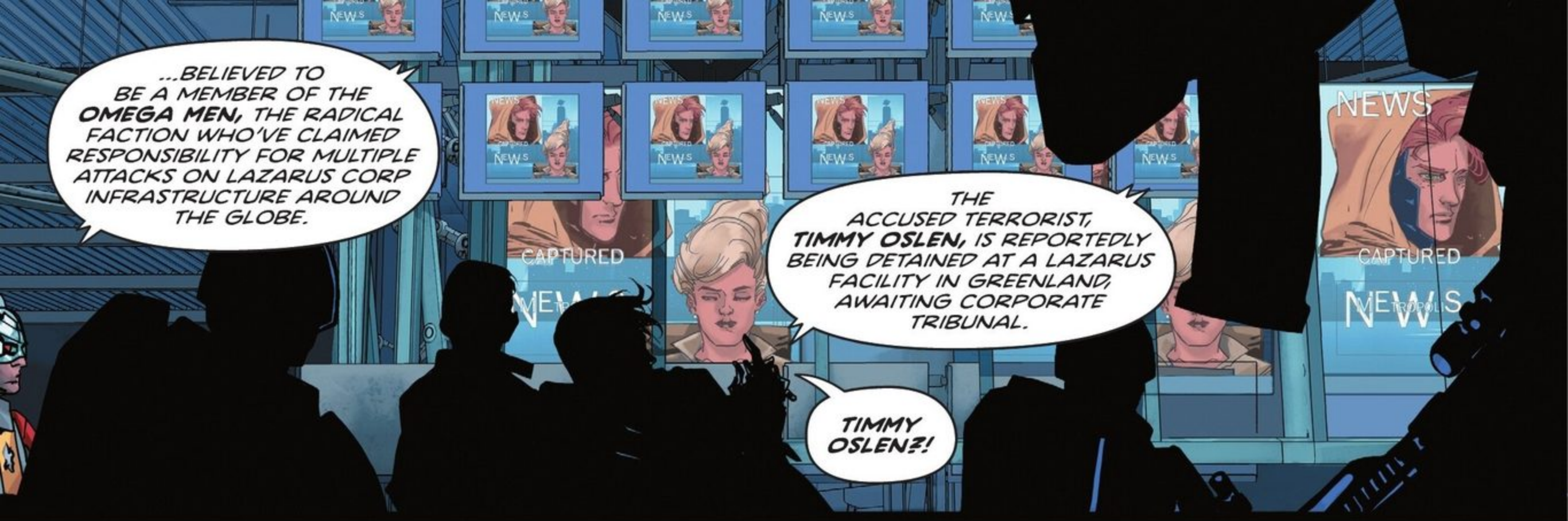
STAY
FROSTY, SKY PATROL.
TARGET'S ATTACK SPEED
IS REPORTEDLY OFF
THE CHARTS.

COPY THAT.
MAINTAINING AERIAL
PERIMETER.

WAIT...
WHAT'S THAT
ON THE--







...BELIEVED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE **OMEGA MEN**, THE RADICAL FACTION WHO'VE CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR MULTIPLE ATTACKS ON LAZARUS CORP INFRASTRUCTURE AROUND THE GLOBE.

THE ACCUSED TERRORIST, **TIMMY OSLEN**, IS REPORTEDLY BEING DETAINED AT A LAZARUS FACILITY IN GREENLAND, AWAITING CORPORATE TRIBUNAL.

TIMMY OSLEN?!



SHOULD I LAUGH OR CRY? I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYMORE.

YEAH, WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? REPORTERS ARE **MORONS**.



RED ALERT. ALL COMBAT PERSONNEL TO ACTION STATIONS.

HE'S HERE! IT'S GO TIME, PEOPLE!

LANE, GET THE PRISONER TO THE STAGING AREA.



MS. LANE.

WE HAVE TO **DO** SOMETHING. WE'VE GOT TO HELP--

SHUT THE HELL UP OR WE'RE **BOTH** DEAD, YOU IDIOT.



AT LAST. THE DAY I MEET MY **SON**.

I TRUST THE PIECES ARE ARRANGED ON THE BOARD?

YES, **DIRECTOR AL GHUL**.



I HAVE SEEN TO IT PERSONALLY.

YOU COULDN'T HAVE CHOSEN A LESS **GODFORSKEN** LOCATION FOR SUCH A MOMENTOUS DAY, **BRAINIAC**?



I HAVE BEEN RUNNING SIMULATIONS, MILLIONS A MINUTE...

...ABOUT THE PHYSIOLOGICAL CHANGES ONE MIGHT EXPERIENCE WHEN MIGRATING FROM A **RED SUPERGIANT** SYSTEM LIKE **KRYPTON'S** TO A **YELLOW DWARF STAR'S** ORBIT.

I BELIEVE SUPERMAN'S ABSORPTION OF **SOLAR ENERGY** TO BE THE SOURCE OF HIS REMARKABLE POWERS.



AND **HERE**, THE SUN WON'T RISE FOR ANOTHER 37 DAYS.

THE LONGER HE FIGHTS, THE MORE SUPERMAN WILL **EXHAUST** HIS SOLAR RESERVES.

I DON'T WANT HIM WEAKENED. I WANT HIM **STRONGER** THAN EVER.



WITH RESPECT, SIR, YOU WANT HIM **BROKEN**, DO YOU NOT?

BROKEN? SUCH THINGS ARE FOR **WEAKER** BEINGS, **BRAINIAC**.

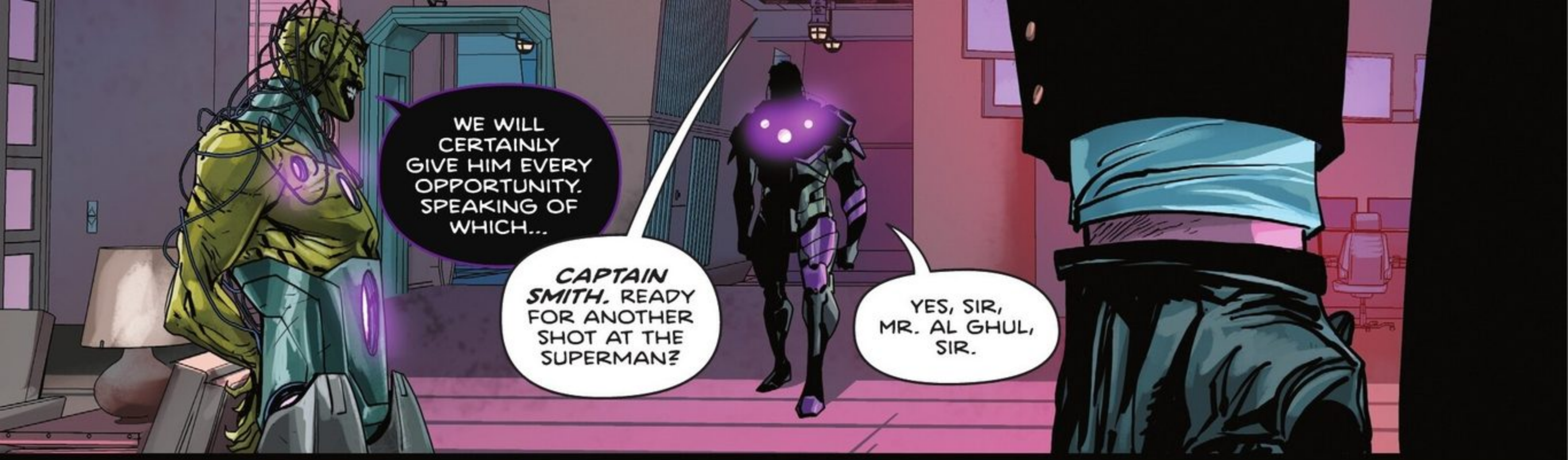


LIKE YOU.

YES, OF COURSE.



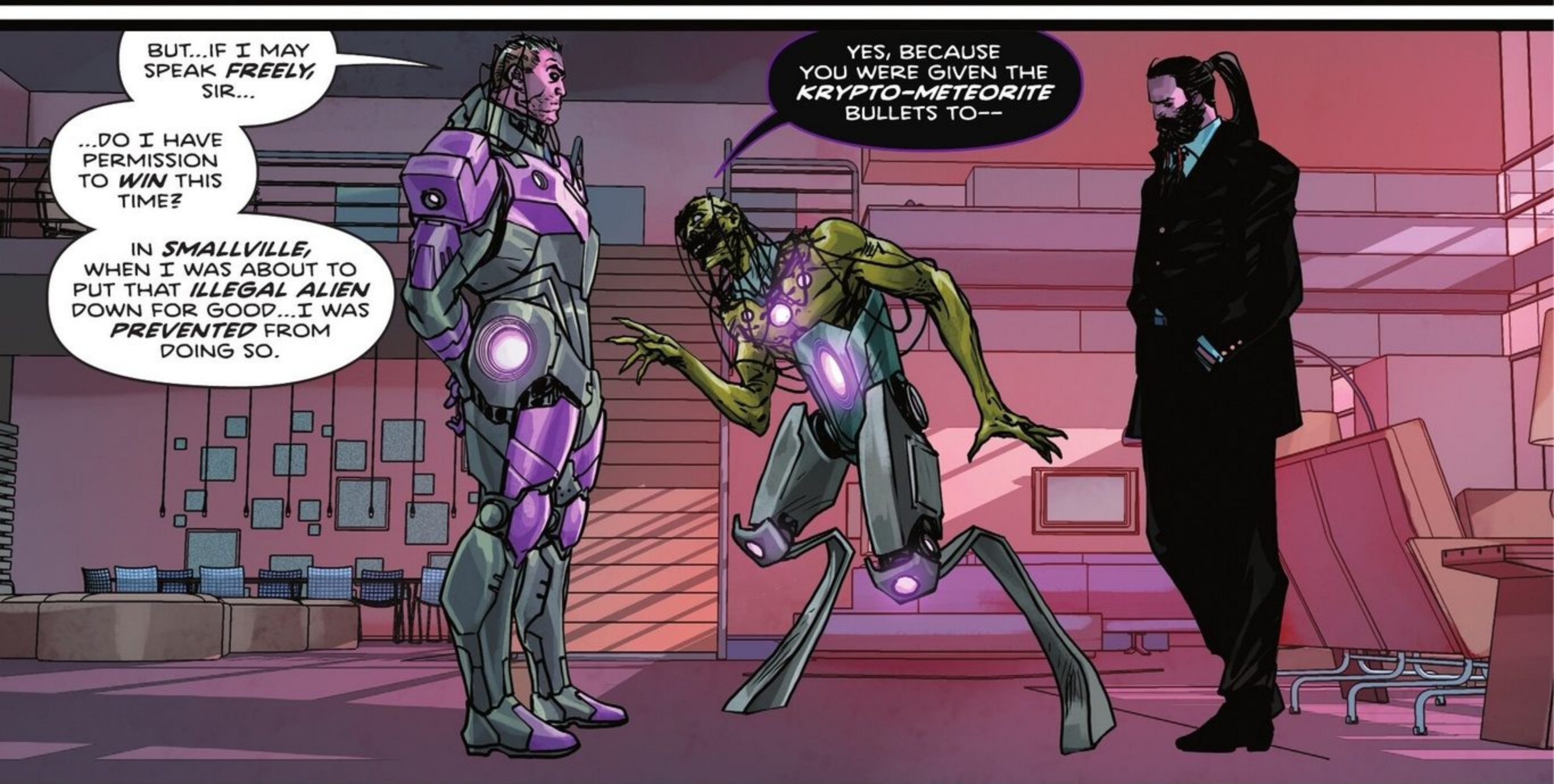
I WANT TO MAKE SUPERMAN **WHOLE**.



WE WILL CERTAINLY GIVE HIM EVERY OPPORTUNITY. SPEAKING OF WHICH...

CAPTAIN SMITH. READY FOR ANOTHER SHOT AT THE SUPERMAN?

YES, SIR, MR. AL GHUL, SIR.



BUT...IF I MAY SPEAK *FREELY*, SIR...

...DO I HAVE PERMISSION TO *WIN* THIS TIME?

IN *SMALLVILLE*, WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO PUT THAT *ILLEGAL ALIEN* DOWN FOR GOOD...I WAS *PREVENTED* FROM DOING SO.

YES, BECAUSE YOU WERE GIVEN THE *KRYPTO-METEORITE* BULLETS TO--



YOU TAKE YOUR ORDERS DIRECTLY FROM *ME*, SMITH, NO ONE ELSE.

AND THE ORDERS OF RA'S AL GHUL...

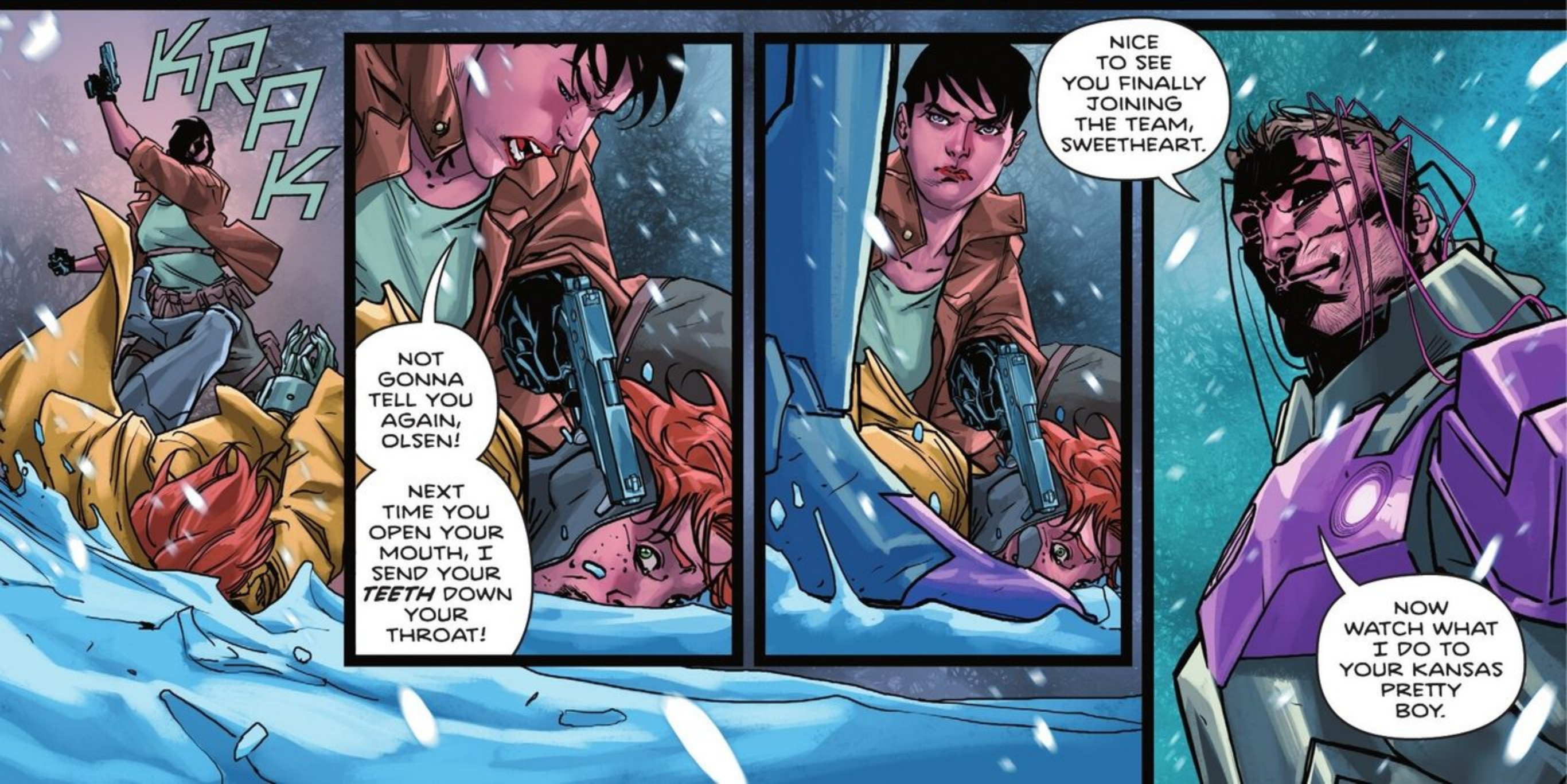
...ARE TO MAKE GOD *PROUD*.



KEEP FIRING!

CAN'T SEE NOTHING! ARE WE SURE HE'S EVEN *UP* THERE?!







I HEAR
HIM COMING.



HEAR THE ROAR OF
HIS **JETPACK**. HIS
HEART POUNDING
IN HIS CHEST.

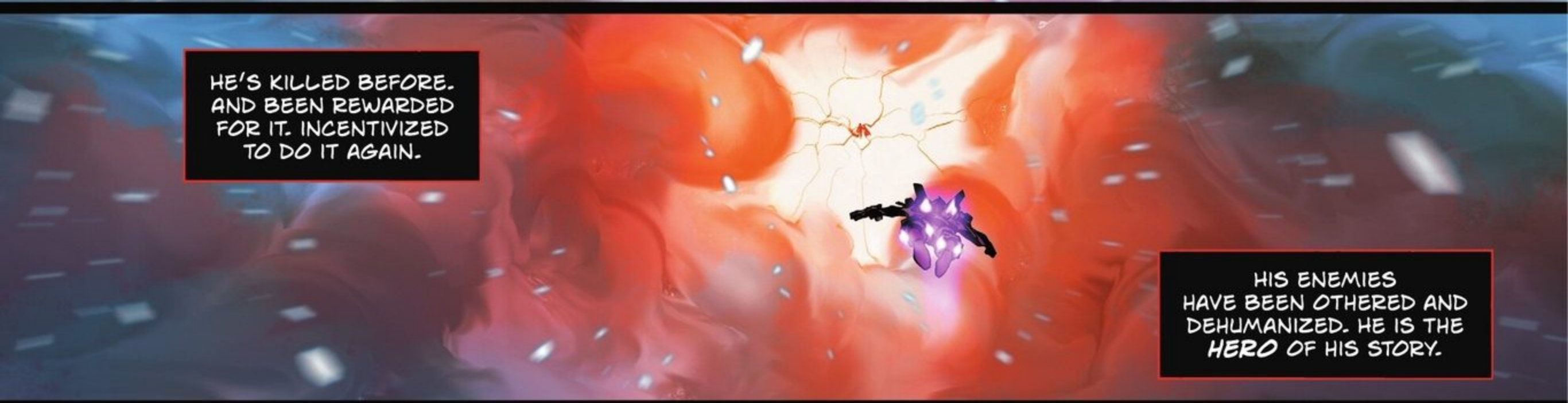


PEACEMAKER SMITH IS
COMING TO KILL ME.



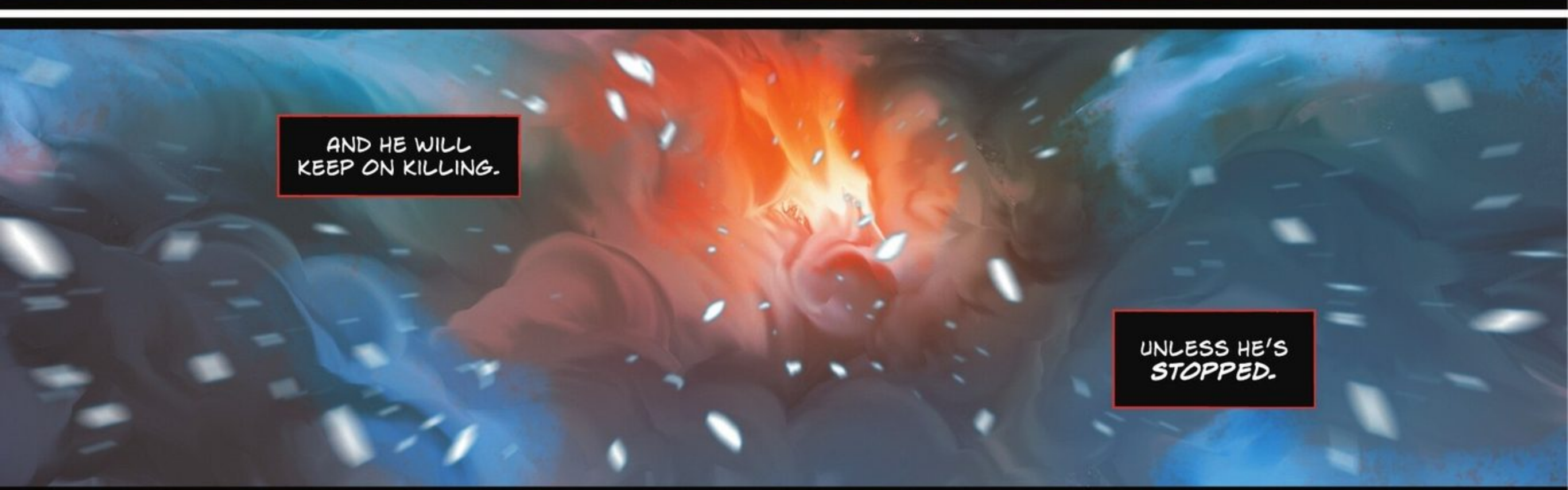
HE HAS A **BULLET** IN
HIS GUN THAT WILL DO
THE JOB. FORGED
FROM THE RUBBLE OF
MY DEAD HOMEWORLD.

IN SMALLVILLE, HE
ALMOST SUCCEEDED.



HE'S KILLED BEFORE.
AND BEEN REWARDED
FOR IT. INCENTIVIZED
TO DO IT AGAIN.

HIS ENEMIES
HAVE BEEN OTHERED AND
DEHUMANIZED. HE IS THE
HERO OF HIS STORY.



AND HE WILL
KEEP ON KILLING.

UNLESS HE'S
STOPPED.



HIS ARMOR IS ADVANCED
ALIEN TECHNOLOGY.
BEYOND ANYTHING THIS
PLANET SHOULD BE
CAPABLE OF PRODUCING.

IT HAS BEEN LACED
THROUGHOUT HIS BODY
IN WHAT I IMAGINE WAS
AN EXTRAORDINARILY
PAINFUL PROCEDURE.

ONE THAT TRANSFORMED
CHRISTOPHER SMITH INTO THE
SINGLE MOST POWERFUL HUMAN
ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.



BUT I AM NOT HUMAN.



I BEAT HIM
SENSELESS IN
ABOUT FOUR
SECONDS.



THAT WON'T STOP HIM
THOUGH, WILL IT?

NOT FOR GOOD.



WITH LITTLE MORE THAN A **BLINK**
I COULD MICROWAVE HIS BRAIN.
LEAVE HIM A DROOLING INVALID.

WITH A PUFF OF BREATH I COULD
SHATTER HIS VERTEBRAE, SO HE'D
NEVER WALK AGAIN. NEVER PULL
ANOTHER TRIGGER.



HGGHK.
YOU BASTARD.
NOT DONE...
WITH YOU
YET.

OR I COULD PUT MY
FIST THROUGH HIS CHEST
AND HURL HIS HEART INTO
SPACE. WITH SUCH SPEED
THAT HE'D STILL BE **ALIVE**
TO SEE IT SAILING AWAY.

I TRY TO THINK OF
REASONS NOT TO DO
THESE THINGS.

I TRY.

BUT ALL I HEAR ARE
MY FATHER'S WORDS.

YOU
MEAN...YOU
KILLED
THEM?

I HAD NO CHOICE.
THERE WASN'T TIME
TO DO ANYTHING
ELSE.

THE MOLES HAD BEEN
DRIVEN INTO A MINDLESS
RAGE, BY WHATEVER
FORCES CHASED THEM
FROM THEIR HOMES
DEEP WITHIN
KRYPTON.

I SHOULD'VE
BEEN MORE
PREPARED.

YOU DID THE RIGHT
THING, DADDY. YOU
SAVED THOSE
MINERS.

THE RIGHT
THING? NO, THAT'S
WHAT WE LIKE TO TELL
OURSELVES BECAUSE IT
MAKES OUR **TOUGH**
DECISIONS EASIER
TO LIVE WITH.

OUT HERE IN THE REDLANDS,
THERE ARE ALWAYS TOUGH
DECISIONS, KAL. BUT WE MUST
NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF WHAT
CONSTITUTES **CRUELTY** AND
INHUMANITY.

ESPECIALLY
WHEN **WE'RE**
THE ONES BEING
CRUEL.

BUT SOMETIMES...WE
STILL HAVE TO **DO** IT,
RIGHT? IF THERE'S
NO OTHER
WAY?

IF
IT **SAVES**
PEOPLE'S
LIVES?

THAT'S
WHAT IT'S BEEN
LIKE IN **MY** TIME.
AND MY FATHER'S
BEFORE HIM. HIS
FATHER'S
TOO.

SOMETIMES WE
HAVE TO BE THE
CRUEL ONES. IF
THAT'S WHAT IT
TAKES...



...TO
KEEP ALL OF
THIS...

...FROM
**GOING
AWAY.**



MY FATHER WAS THE WISEST, MOST CARING MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN.

I CHERISH EVERY LESSON HE EVER TAUGHT ME. AND EVERY DAY HE'S BEEN GONE, I'VE WISHED WE'D HAD MORE TIME.

BUT MY FATHER IS DEAD. JUST LIKE MY MOTHER. ALONG WITH THE ONLY WORLD THEY EVER KNEW.

IN THE END...ALL THEY COULD SAVE OF IT...WAS ME.

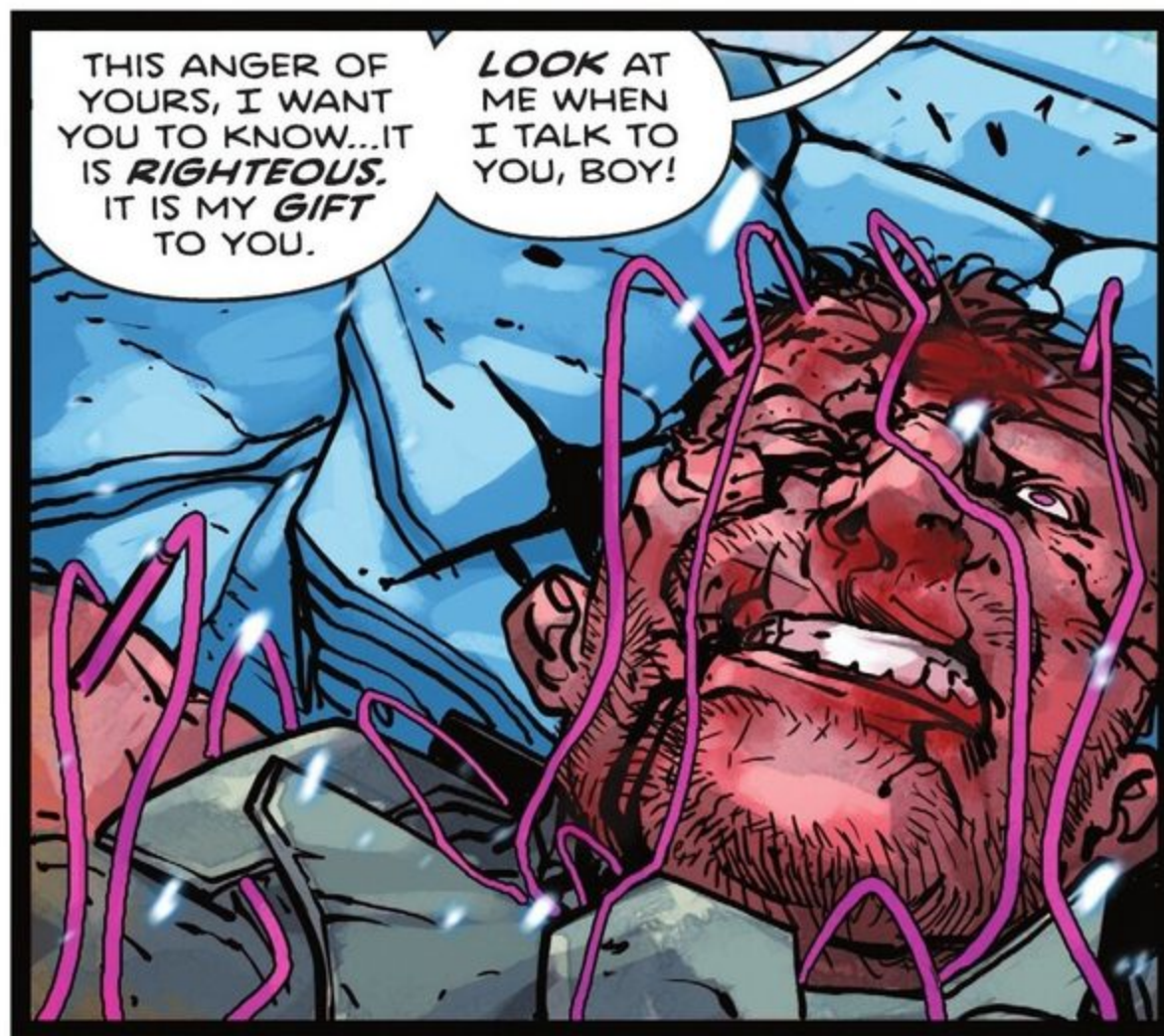
AND I'M NOT THE MINER WITH THE LAVA GUN.

TO HELL WITH YOU. I'LL DO IT MYSELF.

I'M THE LAST BEAST IN THE MINE.









YOUR
SISTER AND
I.

WON'T WE,
TALIA?

OH,
INDEED WE WILL,
FATHER.

ALL
HAIL THE
OMEGA.

PING
PING
PING

NEXT:
PRISONER OF
THE AL GHULS!

ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN

JASON AARON *WRITER*
CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO *ARTIST*
ULISES ARREOLA *COLORIST*
TOM NAPOLITANO *LETTERER*

RAFA SANDOVAL & ULISES ARREOLA *COVER*

GERALD PAREL, GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI &
ROMULO FAJARDO JR., TIRSO
VARIANT COVERS

SUPERMAN, SON OF THE DEMON

ASH PADILLA
ASSISTANT EDITOR

CHRIS CONROY
EDITOR

CHAPTER THREE

THE BEAST IN THE MINE

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY
SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY
SIEGEL FAMILY.

DC
WORLDS
COLLIDE



DC
WORLDS
COLLIDE



I'M GOING TO ASK *NICELY* FOR THOSE OF YOU HERE UNLAWFULLY TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

ONCE.

OH MAN. IT'S HER. IT'S REALLY HER.

AH, CRIPES.

MY DEAR COMRADE KILLER CROC...

WAIT, WE CAN TAKE HER TOGETHER, WE RUSH HER!

GUYS. I'M OUT.

"...GIVE IT A REST, WON'T YOU?"



...CAN WE GET A PICTURE TOGETHER?

IT WOULD BE MY HONOR, BATGIRL.

OKAY, I WON'T SAY IT OUT LOUD, BUT...

...GLEEEEE.

DC
WORLDS
COLLIDE

THE CROOKS LEAVE EMPTY-HANDED,
AND I GET TO MEET MY HERO.

WONDER
WOMAN...WHAT'S
REALLY *IN* THAT
BOX?

AND NIGHTWING
KISSED ME
SQUARE ON
THE MOUTH.

NOT A BAD
NIGHT, REALLY.

CURIOSITY LIKE *THAT*
UNLEASHED PANDORA
THOUSANDS OF YEARS
AGO, NIGHTWING.

ARE YOU
CERTAIN
YOU WANT TO
KNOW?

AND
BY THE
WAY...

...YOU
MAKE A CUTE
COUPLE.

SHE ISN'T
WRONG.

CASE CLOSED, RIGHT?

I WONDER IF TRINCI
DI TONNO CON
POMODORI IS STILL
GOOD SERVED COLD?

BUT IN THE SHADOWS,
WATCHING AS THEY LEAVE...

TAKING
THE BOX BACK TO
THEMYSCIRA?

WELL.
YOU SHOULD
KNOW...

DC WORLDS COLLIDE PRESENTS
UNDER A
BATARANG
MOON, Part Four

writer GAIL SIMONE art POP MHAN
colors HI-FI letters JOSH REED
editor MICHAEL McCALISTER

...THERE LURKS AN
OUTSIDER. I'M COMING
FOR IT, PRINCESS.

IF I HAVE
TO BURN YOUR
ISLAND TO THE
GROUND.

TO BE CONTINUED in the
DC WORLDS COLLIDE VIDEO GAME!

SUPERMAN #4 UNLIMITED

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**GOTHAM TREMBLES
BEFORE THE
SUPERMAN-BAT!**

Written by
DAN SLOTT

Art by
LUCAS MEYER and
RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE



ALL IN

**NO HERO
IS SAFE
AUGUST**



HIGH VOL. BATMAN

Go behind the scenes with the voice talent of *DC High Volume: Batman*! From recording *Year One*, *The Long Halloween*, and *Dark Victory*, learn more about their process of bringing these iconic DC stories to life adapted directly from the page to audio!



Reba Buhr as Catwoman/Selina Kyle

REBA BUHR

Can you talk about your process of translating *Dark Victory* from the comics page to audio for the very first time?

Reba Buhr: My approach to this work started with the scripts that were adapted for audio, not the pages of the comics. As an actor, I'm used to that way of working, and it allows me to analyze the scenes without any external influences beyond what the characters are saying to each other. Not that we didn't want lots of guidance from the comics. Typically, we'd let the scenes play and flow from the script, but if we had questions about the energy of a moment, or the specificities of a fight scene, that's when we'd pull up the relevant frames of the comic book to get answers.



Did you have a favorite scene to record in *DC High Volume: Batman*?

Buhr: My favorite scenes are always the ones between Catwoman and Batman, usually on a rooftop somewhere. It's the only place where they ever get even remotely close to being honest with each other, and the push and pull of how badly she wants to connect with Batman versus how afraid she is to open up to anyone is delicious to play. In *Dark Victory* there is a moment after some pretty typical banter where she slaps him out of nowhere for doubting Harvey Dent. There aren't many people who get to put Batman in his place and get away with it!



What was it like balancing Catwoman/Selina Kyle's playful yet antagonizing attitude toward Batman?

Buhr: In my interpretation of Selina Kyle's motivations, the playfulness is all a mask for her discomfort with close relationships. If she's teasing, she's not being real with anyone, and she doesn't have to worry about anyone truly understanding her or getting close to her. And why is she so afraid of intimacy? Because it's the thing she craves most in the whole world. Selina is full of fear, insecurity, lust, and anger. We all hold those kinds of multitudes inside us, and on some level I think we can all relate to wanting something desperately but not wanting anyone to know how badly you want it.

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